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**Amendments to the Claims**

Please cancel Claims 1 and 3 - 4. Please add new Claim 5. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

**Claim Listing**

1. - 4. (Cancelled)

5. (New) An underivatized, aqueous soluble  $\beta$ -glucan composition having an average molecular weight range of from about 70,000 to about 300,000 daltons in a triple helix conformation, which has a higher affinity for glucan receptors on monocytes than underivatized  $\beta$ -glucan in single helix conformation, but which does not induce the productions of IL-1 and TNF by mononuclear cells *in vitro* or *in vivo*.